SECOND REPORT

COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION PROPOSALS TO AMEND GUIDELINES ON MPLADS

Presented to Lok Sabha on 22.8.2000

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

August, 2000/Sravana, 1922(S)

CONTENTS

PAGE

COMPOSITION OF MPLADS COMMITTEE . . . . . (iii)

INTRODUCTION . . . . . (v)

REPORT

I. Use of MPLADS Funds for providing a vehicle to MP for inspection of work executed under MPLAD Scheme 1

II. Use of MPLADS Funds for providing LPG Cylinder and Regulator to women below poverty line 4

III. Inclusion of provision for permanent execution of signboards with the name of the MP at work sites under MPLAD; Provision of purchase of artificial limbs and cycles for distribution to disabled persons; and contribution of Rs. 5 lakh out of MPLADS funds for Internet Dhabas in all Block/ Mandal Headquarters in the country 7

IV. Suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme 11

V. Use of MPLADS funds by Cooperatives Societies of small and marginal farmers for public irrigation in Maharashtra . . . 16

VI. Inclusion of Electronic Governance and Software Development in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS and maintenance of separate account and issue of Pass Book to MP. 18

VII. Use of MPLADS Funds for construction of MP Office in every Parliamentary constituency 21

VIII. Use of MPLADS funds for purchase of Storage Refrigerator for Blood Banks. 22

IX. Suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS regarding (i) allowing Rajya Sabha MPs to take up works under MPLADS out of the State of their election and (ii) utilisation of MPLADS funds for construction of Hall or Auditorium for Bar Association of Lawyers 24

X. Utilisation of unspent balance of Rajya Sabha Ex-MPs to the successor Rajya Sabha MPs under MPLADS. 28

XI. Identification of an Agency through which a particular work is executed under MPLADS 32

XII. Involvement of MPs in the distribution of MPLADS cheques to the beneficiaries under the MPLAD Scheme 33

XIII. Suggestion for inclusion of MPLADS in the curricula of training programmes for IAS Probationers/Officers for effective implementation of MPLADS. 34

PAGE

APPENDICES

I. Minutes of sitting of Committee on MPLADS held on 21.6.2000 42

II. Minutes of sitting of Committee on MPLADS held on 26.7.2000 45

III. Minutes of sitting of Committee on MPLADS held on 16.8.2000 52

IV. Statement of Observations and Recommendations. 55

COMPOSITION OF THE MPLADS COMMITTEE

Dr. Bolla Bulli Ramaiah — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Dr. Baliram
3. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay
4. Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi
5. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi
6. Shri Bikram Keshari Deo
7. Shri Saiduzzama
8. Shri Raghuvir Singh Kaushal
9. Shri Chandrakant Khaire
10. Shri Krishnamraju
11. Shri C. Kuppusami
12. Shri K. Malaisamy
13. Shri Sis Ram Ola
14. Prof. R.R. Parmanik
15. Shri Shriniwas Patil
16. Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan
17. Shri Rajendrasinh Rana
18. Shri Tarachand Sahu
19. Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan
20. Shri Balbir Singh
21. Shri Kunwar Akhilesh Singh
22. Shri Chinamayanand Swami
23. Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy
24. Shri Dinesh Chandra Yadav

SECRETARIAT

1. Dr. A.K. Pandey — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri John Joseph — *Joint Secretary*
3. Shri K.L. Narang — *Director*
4. Shri S.C. Kaliraman — *Assistant Director*

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Second Report on the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation —'Proposals to amend Guidelines on MPLADS'.

2. The Committee considered the representations and proposals received from Hon'ble Ministers and Members of Parliament for amendment to Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme at their sittings held on 21 June, 26 July and 16 August, 2000. The observations/recommendations made in the Report are based on the decisions taken by the Committee at their aforesaid sittings.

3. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at their sitting held on 16 August, 2000.

4. The Committee would like to express their thanks to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for placing before them the written notes and information the Committee desired in connection with examination of the representations and suggestions of Hon'ble Members of Parliament for amendment to the Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme.

5. For facility of reference, the observations/recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the body of the Report and have also been reproduced in consolidated form in the Appendix to the Report.

NEW DELHI;
18 August, 2000
27 Sravana, 1922 (S)

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH,
Chairman,
Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme.

REPORT

I

Use of MPLADS Funds for providing a vehicle to MP for inspection of work executed under MPLAD Scheme

1.1 Dr. Laxmi Narayan Pandeya, MP addressed a representation dated 28 February, 2000 to hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLAD Scheme regarding use of MPLADS funds for providing a vehicle to MP for inspection of works executed under MPLAD Scheme for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

1.2 In his letter, the hon'ble Member stated as follows:—

> "Vehicles were provided to Members of Parliament by the various State Governments for the work to be taken up under the MPLADS in their respective constituencies and also for periodical inspection of other works and for monitoring the development work under various schemes of the State Governments and for public relations but this facility has been withdrawn by the Madhya Pradesh Government for the last two months. Perhaps many States don't provide such facility.
>
> I, therefore, request that vehicle may kindly be provided and its maintenance should be done through the amount which remains deposited in the bank provided under MPLAD Scheme and the interest accrued on it so that inspection and execution of development work could be done properly."

1.3 The representation was forwarded to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for obtaining their factual comments. In their communication, dated 29 March, 2000, the Ministry stated as under:—

"(i) Under MPLADS only such works can be taken up as are developmental in nature which may lead to creation of durable assets. Purchase of vehicle can not be covered under MPLADS.

(ii) The guidelines do not permit purchase of any type of vehicle except ambulance for Govt. hospitals and reputed service organisations like Red Cross and Ramkrishna Mission.

(iii) Interest amount can be utilised for only such works as are covered under the guidelines.

(iv) Guidelines do not permit incurring revenue expenditure. Therefore, MPLADS funds/interest cannot be used for maintenance.

(v) The matter regarding allowing vehicle under MPLADS has already been considered in the Rajya Sabha Committee and the Chairman, Rajya Sabha is not in favour of the same.

1.4 In this regard, Shri Suresh Pasi, MP (Lok Sabha) also addressed a letter dated 26 April, 2000 to the Chairman, Committee on MPLADS stating as follows:—

> "Jeep is not available for MP in Koshambi district. You are, therefore, requested to get arrangement for a Jeep for the Member of Parliament made, in the district."

1.5 In this connection, MSA Branch (Lok Sabha Secretariat) forwarded the following extracts of the Minutes of the sitting of the Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament held on 7 April, 2000 for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS:—

> "In response to the questionnaire pertaining to the facilities/ remuneration etc. to Members of Parliament and the suggestions from Leaders of various political parties, a view had emerged that a vehicle should be made available to MPs whenever they visit their constituency. In fact, some State Governments are already extending this facility to the sitting MPs.
>
> During 12th Lok Sabha it was mooted that one of the possibilities towards achieving this aim could be that the interest generated from the MPLAD fund may be generated toward providing a vehicle which should be kept at the disposal of the Collector of the District on the eve of the visit of the concerned MP, the vehicle should be utilised by the Hon'ble MP for his/her visit in the constituency in connection with the development work and functioning in the constituency to carry out his responsibility and duties. It was agreed by the Joint Committee to recommend the suggestion to the Committee on MPLAD for necessary action and implementation."

Recommendation

1.6 The Committee peruse the proposal for providing a vehicle to MP for inspection of works executed under MPLAD Scheme.

The Committee feel that vehicle was not to be purchased every year and it would be a one time affair. The Committee further note that five to seven per cent of interest accrued on MPLADS funds should be earmarked for purchase of vehicle so that Members could periodically inspect works. In the opinion of the Committee, such step would have a tremendous effects on delivering goods to the public.

The Committee also express their views that the vehicle be kept with the District Collector who should be the custodian and provide it to MP on request and it would be meant for MP only. This vehicle could also be used for monitoring development works under the constituency. The Committee also desire that there should be a ceiling on maintenance expenditure of the vehicle.

1.7 During the course of evidence with the representatives of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on 26 July, 2000 the Committee deliberated over the matter for providing a vehicle to MP for inspection of works executed under MPLADS. The Committee recommended that the concerned District Collector/Magistrate should provide a vehicle to the MP for inspection of works executed under MPLADS in his parliamentary constituency.

II

Use of MPLADS Funds for providing LPG Cylinder and Regulator to women below poverty line

2.1 Shri Ram Naik, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, addressed a letter dated 2 March, 2000 to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha regarding use of MPLADS funds for providing LPG Cylinder and Regulator to women below poverty line for consideration of Committee on MPLADS.

2.2 In his letter, the Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas stated as follows:—

> "As you are aware, my Ministry is providing 50 LPG gas coupons to each Member of Parliament for use of gas connections to the people in urgent need of such connections through the distributors of the Public Sector Oil Companies. In case of MPs of Lok Sabha the validity of the gas coupon is within the Constituency of the respective MP, whereas the MPs of Rajya Sabha can issue gas coupons allotted to them to the persons in the State represented by them.
>
> Sir, you are fully conversant that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh is implementing a Scheme called 'Deepam Scheme' under which LPG connections are given to the women below the poverty line on priority by the Public Sector Oil Companies. The cost of LPG cylinder and regulator amounting to Rs. 1000/- is deposited for each gas connection by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh with the Oil Company for release of gas connection. The identification of the beneficiary is also made by the State Government.
>
> In the last meeting of the Consultative Committee attached to my Ministry, I had suggested to the Member of the Committee that some LPG connections may be released to the deserving women on the lines of the Deepam Scheme of Andhra Pradesh Government. The cost of one LPG cylinder and regulator amounting to Rs. 1000/-may be met out of the fund available with the MP from the MP's Area Development Scheme. Such a combination of providing gas connection alongwith the subsidy for the equipment would go a long way in mitigating the hardships faced by the deserving women. It would not only help in spread of use of LPG which is a clean and convenient fuel, but also help in improving the standards of living of people.
>
> I shall be grateful if you could elicit the views of the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme Committee in your

House and advise me on the above suggestions. If required, a meeting may be convened by you at your convenience where the feasibility of the proposal can be considered. The mechanism of operation of the scheme will be worked out after your approval."

2.3 The Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, addressed a letter on 23 March, 2000 to Secretary General (Lok Sabha) stating as follows:—

"Enclosed please find a copy of letter addressed to MOS (S&PI) by Shri Ram Naik, Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas regarding release of LPG connections to the deserving women on priority basis. Shri Ram Naik has already addressed similar letters to Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha and Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, copies of which are also enclosed for ready reference. MOS (S&PI) has desired that the matter may be placed before the next meeting of the Committee on MPLADS of the respective Houses.

The request of the Hon'ble Minister may please be considered by the Committee on MPLADS with reference to the existing restrictions in the guidelines, viz., (i) purchase of inventory item of any type; and (ii) creation of assets for individual benefit."

2.4 In this connection, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their factual comments dated 4 April, 2000 stated as follows:—

"(i) The proposal is for contributing Rs. 1000/- for each gas connection from MPLADS. The grants from the scheme funds are prohibited under item 4 Appendix 2 of the guidelines.

(ii) The 'Deepam Scheme' is an approved scheme of the State of Andhra Pradesh and is not a Central Scheme. The MPLADS funds, therefore, can not be used for individual benefits as per item 8 Appendix 2 of the guidelines.

(iii) The basic objective of the scheme is to create durable assets for use by public at large. Hence the present proposal is not in conformity with the objective of the MPLAD Scheme.

The Committee may consider the proposal in the light of the above comments/restrictions."

Recommendation

2.5 The Committee note the proposal of the Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas for use of MPLADS Funds for providing LPG cylinder and regulator to women below poverty line. The Committee while

not approving the proposal of the Hon'ble Minister agree with the view of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the proposal for contributing Rs. 1000/- for each gas connection from MPLADS Funds cannot be accepted as it was prohibited under item 4 Appendix 2 of the Guidelines. The Committee note that the proposal of hon'ble Minister not being conformity with the objectives of MPLADS Scheme. Hence, the MPLADS Funds may not be used for individual benefits.

III

Suggestions to amend Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme reinclusion of provision for permanent execution of signboards with the name of the MP at work sites under MPLADS; provision of purchase of artificial limbs and cycles for distribution to disabled persons; and contribution of Rs. 5 lakh out of MPLADS funds for Internet Dhabas in all Block/Mandal Headquarters in the country

3.1 Prof. R.R. Pramanik, MP, addressed a letter dated 3 March, 2000 to Hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS making certain suggestions for amendment to Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

3.2 In his letter, the Hon'ble Member stated as follows:—

"As suggested by you in the meeting held on 2.3.2000, I hereby put my following Amendments to the Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme:

(1) On Page 6 and clause 4.5 of the Guidelines on MPLADS, please write:

"Block Development Officer or the Executive Officer of the Panchayat Samiti" for, "Block Development Officer."

(2) On Page 6 and clause 4.8 of the Guidelines on MPLADS, please add the following after the sentence:

"and for the purchase of a vehicle to be used by the concerned MP for supervision and monitoring of the works under MPLADS & for the running and maintenance of the vehicle, and for the purchase of a computer to be kept at the office for MPLADS, and for the construction and maintenance of an office for MPLADS at the District Head Quarter, and for the purchase of artificial limbs and cycles and etc. for free distribution to the poor disabled persons in the constituency."

(3) On Page 7 clause 6.1 of the Guidelines on MPLADS, please write:

"...with the name of MP shall permanently and prominently be erected at the site." for, "...with the name of MP may be prominently erected at the site."

(4) On Page 9 item 14, please write:

"...including family welfare sub-centres and biri workers welfare sub-centres..." for, "...including family welfare sub-centres"

(5) In Page 9, item 20, please write:
"...Schools in SC/ST areas..." for, "... Schools in tribal areas."

3.3 The suggestions were forwarded to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for obtaining factual comments thereon. The Ministry *vide* their communication dated 4 April, 2000 replied suggestion-wise as under:

Sl.No.	Suggestion	Comments
1	2	3
1.	Amendments to Para 4.5 of the Guidelines to include Executive Officer of the Panchayat Samiti as the implementing agency.	The mention of the Block Development Officer in Para 4.5 of the Guidelines is only as an example. There may be a number of implementing agencies in the district and it is not practicable to add the list of all executing agencies including the Executive Officer of the Panchayat Samiti as suggested by the Hon'ble MP. The Collectors get the Works done under the scheme by following the established procedure of the State Government.
2.	Amendment to Para 4.8 of the Guidelines allowing interest accrued on MPLADS funds to be used for the following:	
	(i) For purchase of vehicles to be used by concerned MP for supervision and monitoring of MPLADS.	The suggestion was earlier discussed by the Hon'ble Chairman, (Rajya Sabha) with the leaders of various parties. The suggestion was *not accepted.*
	(ii) Construction and maintenance of office for MPLADS at district headquarters.	There does not appear to be any need to have a separate office for MPLADS at District headquarters as the District Collectors are the nodal officers for implementation of the works under the Scheme. Moreover, maintenance of office is not permitted as it involves revenue expenditure. The guidelines also prohibit construction of any office building under the scheme.

1	2	3
	(iii) Purchase of computer to be kept at the office of MPLADS	Computers can be installed, under the Scheme, only in Govt. or Government-aided educational institutions.
	(iv) Purchase of artificial limbs and cycles for distribution to disabled persons.	Each Scheme has its own scope and contents. The MPLAD Scheme specifically aims at construction of assets of durable nature for public use based on locally felt needs. Under the Scheme, (Item 8, appendix-2) assets for individual benefits are not permissible. There are already schemes of Ministry of Welfare which should take care of this aspect.
3.	Amendment to Para 6.1 of the guidelines to include provision for permanent erection of signboards with the name of the MP at work sites.	The suggestion is to include the work "permanently" alongwith the word prominently so that the existing provisions may read as ".....signboards carrying inscriptions "MPLADS works" with the name of MP may be permanently and prominently erected at the site." The existing provisions already mean to provide the fixation of permanent signboards and not temporary signboards. Therefore, there does not appear to be any need to amend the existing provisions.
4.	Amendment to Item-14, appendix-I to include Biri workers welfare centres.	The provision in this item is about construction of public health building including family welfare sub-centre to be used for all sections of society including the biri workers. Hence, there is no need of specific mention of Biri workers.

1	2	3
		Moreover, there is no need to have separate welfare sub-centres for biri workers as the Guidelines already include provision for community/culture centres for use by the public.
5.	Amendment to Item No. 20 to include schools under SC/ST areas.	Item No.1, Appendix-I already includes provision for construction of all buildings for schools including the schools for SC/ST, Amendment to Item 20, therefore, would not serve any *purpose.*

Recommendations

3.4 The Committee note the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their comments on the various suggestions. In regard to purchase of artificial limbs and cycles for distribution to disabled persons under MPLADS, the Committee recommend that provisions should be made to provide artificial limbs and cycles for disabled persons under MPLADS to a fixed number of needy persons in a year in the presence of State Government officials.

3.5 In regard to clause 6.1 of the Guidelines on MPLADS, the Committee recommend that it may be amended to read as follows:—

".....with the name of MP shall permanently and prominently be erected at the sites."

3.6 The Committee on consideration of the proposal of Hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS regarding contribution of Rs. 5 lakh out of MPLADS Funds for *Internet Dhabas* in all Block Mandal Headquarters in the country recommend that funds should be provided for this purpose as it fell under the infrastructure category.

IV

Suggestions to amend Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme

4.1 Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, MP addressed a letter dated 17 April, 2000 to Hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS making certain suggestions for amendment to Guidelines on MPLADS for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

4.2 In his letter, the Hon'ble Member stated as follows:—

"I wish that the following points may please be considered for effective and timely utilization of MPLADS:

(1) The total amount of Rs. 2.00 crores should be released in two instalments of Rs. 1.00 crore on April 1st and Rs. 1.00 crore on October Ist.

(2) The utilization certificate can be insisted only once in an year *i.e.* at the end of financial year.

(3) Time for submitting the estimates should be limited to 15 days after conveying the allotment to the concerned Department.

(4) Transfer of Funds to the districts where the funds are allotted by the nodal District Collector, should be prompt. Presently there is an abnormal delay. This should be done immediately after the administrative sanction is given by the District Collector where the work is allotted.

(5) Works within one lakh can be given by nomination to avoid delay or they can do it departmentally.

(6) For every six months an account of the amount received spent, interest accrued and the balance available with interest should be sent to the concerned MP. Even depositing the funds in Nationalized Banks should be made in consultation with the concerned MP.

(7) An account of works recommended, works completed and amount spent should also be sent to the concerned MP once in Six Months coinciding with the release of amount *i.e.* on first week of April and Ocotber every year.

(8) The annual amount may be enhanced to Rs. 3.00 crores per member and released in two instalments of Rs. 1.50 crores each.

(9) Allocation of funds may be allowed for construction of Community Halls, Community Mandapamas, Mahila Mandals. Dwacra Training cum work halls etc.

(10) Allocation should be dis-allowed for the construction of Government Office Buildings which are meant for the occupation of officers (except for Panchayat offices)."

4.3 On being forwarded the suggestions to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for eliciting their comments, the Ministry *vide*, their communication dated 17 May, 2000 replied point-wise as under:—

"Point No. 1

Proposal to release MPLADS funds in two instalments of Rs.1.00 crore each has been agreed by the Ministry.

Point No. 2

As per criteria approved for release of funds, expenditure statement showing unsanctioned balance less than Rs.1.00 crore (recently raised from Rs.50.00 lakhs to Rs.1.00 crore) is required. Therefore utilisation certificate/expenditure statement cannot be called for at the end of the financial year.

Point No. 3

As the implementing agencies would require sufficient time to examine a project involving survey etc., the time limit cannot be restricted to 15 days.

Point No. 4

The specific case of abnormal delay for transfer of funds from Nodal District to other districts can be enquired into, if brought to the notice of the Ministry.

Point No. 5

The works can be executed departmentally by State Government Agencies as enshrined in Para 3.5 of the Guidelines.

Point No. 6

All the State Govenrments have been requested to issue instructions to all DCs to furnish monitoring reports to the MPs once in two months. Regarding the request of prior consultation with the MP for depositing the funds in Nationalised Bank, it may please be noted that in this regard the DCs have to exercise their discretion.

Point No. 7

As in point No. 6

Point No. 8

MOS (S&PI) has already announced in Lok Sabha on 10-05-2000 that allocation of MPLADS funds cannot be enhanced from Rs. 2.00 crores.

Point No. 9

MPLADS funds can be allowed for construction of Community Halls, Community Mandapams. Construction of Buildings for Mahila Mandals can also be taken up if the same belongs to Government or local bodies.

Point No. 10

The Guidelines already specifically prohibits construction of Office Buildings, Residential Buildings and other buildings relating to Central or State Govts. Departments, Agencies or Organisation. Panchayat offices are also covered by this restriction."

Recommendation

The utilisation certificate can be insisted only once in an year i.e. at the end of financial year.

4.4 The Committee note the suggestion. While agreeing with the reply of the Ministry in this regard the Committee recommend that as per criteria approved for release of funds, expenditure statement showing unsanctioned balance less than Rs. 1.00 crore (recently raised from Rs.50.00 lakh to Rs.1.00 crore) might be required.

Time for submitting the estimates should be limited to 15 days after conveying the allotment to the concerned Department.

4.5 On consideration of proposal to amend Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme in this regard, the Committee recommend that clause 3.2 of the Guidelines on MPLADS might be amended to read as follows:—

"As far as possible sanctions of works should be accorded within 30 days from the date of receipt of proposal from the concerned MP."

Transfer of Funds to the Districts where the funds are allotted by the Nodal District Collector, should be prompt. This should be done immediately after the administrative sanction is given by the District Collector where the work is allotted.

4.6 The Committee while taking note of the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard recommend that any specific case of abnormal delay in transfer of funds from Nodal District to other districts should be enquired into, if brought to the notice of the Ministry.

Works within Rs. one lakh can be given by nomination to avoid delay or they can do it departmentally.

4.7 The Committee note the proposal and recommend the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the works upto Rs. one lakh can be executed departmentally by State Government Agencies to avoid any delay as provided in Para 3.5 of the

Guidelines on MPLADS. Tendering for works less than Rs. one lakh should be avoided as far as possible.

For every six months an account of the amount received, spent, interest accrued and the balance available with interest should be sent to the concerned MP. Even depositing the funds in Nationalized Banks should be made in consultation with the concerned MP.

AND

An account of works recommended, works completed and amount spent should also be sent to the concerned MP once in Six months coinciding with the release of amount i.e. on first week of April and October every year.

4.8 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (Department of Programme Implementation) in their subsequent communication dated 28th July, 2000 addressed to all District Collectors/ District Magistrates/Dy. Commissioners have stated as follows:—

"As per existing instruction, the MPLADS funds are required to be kept in the nationalised banks only, by opening separate account in respect of each MP. There has been requests from MPs that they should be provided photocopies of the passbooks for knowing the pace of utilisation of funds and the balance available in their accounts.

The matter has been considered and it has been decided that photocopies of updated passbooks would be made available to the concerned MPs by 10th of every alternate month."

4.9 The Committee note the above suggestions. The Committee further note that as latest existing instructions, the MPLADS funds are required to be kept in the nationalised banks only, by opening separate account in respect of each MP. There has been requests from MPs that they should be provided photocopies of the passbooks for knowing the pace of utilisation of funds and the balance available in their accounts. The matter has been considered by Government and it has been decided that photocopies of updated passbooks would be made available to the concerned MPs by 10th of every alternate month. The Committee also feel that there is no harm in agreeing to the suggestion that 'depositing the funds in Nationalized Banks should be made in consultation with the concerned MP'. The Committee desire that the existing instructions should be reiterated to all DCs for compliance by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

The annual amount may be enhanced to Rs. 3.00 crore per Member and released in two instalments of Rs.1.50 crore each.

4.10 The Committee note the proposal for enhancing allocation in MP quota fund. The Committee on consideration of the position stated by the Ministry that "MOS(S&PI) has already announced in Lok Sabha on 10 May, 2000 that allocation of MPLADS funds cannot be enhanced from

Rs.2.00 crore", recommend that the allocation of MPLADS funds should be enhanced to Rs. 3.00 crore per Member to meet the requirement of developmental works in their constituencies.

Allocation of funds may be allowed for construction of Community Halls, Community Mandapams, Mahila Mandals, DWACRA Training cum work halls, etc.

4.11 The Committee note the proposal and approve the position stated by the Ministry in this regard that MPLADS funds can be allowed for construction of Community Halls and Community Mandapams. Construction of buildings for Mahila Mandals can also be taken up.

Allocation should be disallowed for the construction of Government Office Buildings which are meant for the occupation of offices (except for Panchayat offices)

4.12 The Committee note the proposal and while agreeing with the views of the Ministry in this regard that the Guidelines already specifically prohibit construction of Office Buildings, Residential Buildings and other buildings relating to Central or State Government Departments, Agencies or Organisations, however, recommend that the Panchayat offices should not be covered by this restriction.

V

Amendment to Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS funds by Cooperative Societies of small and marginal farmers for public irrigation in Maharashtra

5.1 Shri Ashok N. Mohol, MP addressed a letter to Chairman, Committee on MPLADS giving suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS funds by Cooperative Societies of small and marginal farmers for public irrigation in Maharashtra.

5.2 In his letter, the hon'ble MP has stated as follows:—

> "In Maharashtra small & marginal farmers come together and take permission to lift the water from notified rivers but then have to register a society under Cooperative Act otherwise State Government in Irrigation Deptt. does not allow the water to be lifted. In don't of MPLAD Scheme cooperative registered society is included and as such funds are not given by District Collector for public irrigation.
>
> If the small farmers are given encouragement by giving them funds under MPLAD sizeable land will come under irrigation & fate of farmers will shine.
>
> Please allow the MPLAD funds to be spent on public irrigation & remove the anomaly in the procedure which is followed so far."

5.3 The representation was referred to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for obtaining factual position thereon. In their comments, the Ministry *vide* their communication dated 5 May, 2000, stated as under:—

> "That the basic objective of the MPLAD Scheme is to take up works which are developmental in nature and may lead to creation of durable assets for use by the general public. Any work relating to private enterprise or creation of asset for individual benefit have been specifically prohibited. That is why commercial organisations, registered societies, private institutions or cooperative institutions have been put in App. II, SI. No.2 and have been covered under the prohibitive category. The type of beneficiaries indicated by the Hon'ble MP are a registered society not covered under MPLADS as the benefit would accrue to a group of persons only and not the general public, which will be against the main objective of the scheme."

5.4 During evidence, before the Committee, the representatives of the Ministry in response to a query stated as follows:—

> "They would take up the matter with the State Government of Maharashtra for relaxation of certain restrictions imposed in this regard to obviate difficulties of small/marginal farmers in Maharashtra."

Recommendation

5.5 The Committee note the proposal of the hon'ble Member and agree with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the basic objective of the MPLAD Scheme was to take up works which were developmental in nature and lead to creation of durable assets for use by the general public. Any work relating to private enterprise or creation of asset for individual benefit has been specifically prohibited. That is why commercial organisations, trusts, registered societies, private institutions or cooperative institutions have been put in Appendix-2, SI. No. 2 and have been covered under the prohibited category. The type of beneficiaries indicated by the Hon'ble MP were registered societies not covered under MPLADS as the benefit would accrue to a group of persons only and not the general public, which would be against the main objective of the scheme.

The Committee desire that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation as assured during evidence should take up the matter with the State Government of Maharashtra for relaxation of certain restrictions imposed in this regard to obviate difficulties of small/marginal farmers in all States including Maharashtra.

VI

Suggestions to amend Guidelines of MPLADS for inclusion of Electronic Governance and Software Development in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS and maintenance of separate account and issue of Pass Book to MP

6.1 Shri. C. Kuppusami, MP addressed a letter dated 14 March, 2000 to Chairman, Committee on MPLADS giving suggestions to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of Electronic Governance and Software Development in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS and maintenance of separate account and issue of Pass Book to MP.

6.2 In his letter, the Hon'ble MP stated as follows:—

> "In the last meeting of Committee on MPLADS held on 2.3.2000, during the course of discussion on the guidelines, it was agreed that Members can give their suggestions for inclusion in the Guidelines for LAD Scheme.
>
> Since E-Governance and Software development has assumed greatest importance in the light of IT revolution, I suggest the following:—
>
> Under the item No. 24 — Electronic Projects, please include: "E-Governance and development of related software". Under the item "Release of Funds", the following may be added: "Uniform procedure to be followed in maintaining the Accounts and keeping the amount in a separate Account with passbook to be issued to the concerned MP".

6.3 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation *vide* their communication dated 27 March, 2000 forwarded copies of letters dated 8 March, 2000 from Shri Murasoli Maran, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Shri A.K.S, Vijayan, MP (Lok Sabha) dated 10 March, 2000 addressed to Shri Arun Shourie, Minister of State for Statistics and Programme Implementation and Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances on the subject stating as follows:—

Letter dated 8 March, 2000 from Shri Murasoli Maran, Minister of Commerce and Industry

> "As you are fully aware, E-Governance and software development has assumed greatest importance in the light of I.T. Revolution. I, however, understand that in the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), there is resistance in the

allocation of funds for these schemes. As a matter of fact I feel that Member of Parliament should give a thrust for induction of these latest modern tools of development so that these have an impact on the general public and help for speedy development especially in the rural areas. Any funds allotted by Member of Parliaments to these sectors under Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) do not now find favour with the District Collectors at present in the absence of inclusion of these areas of development by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. District Collectors are worried that these may invite audit objection from A.G.

I shall therefore be grateful if you could kindly look into this problem and include E-Governance and development of software thereof in the guidelines to the MPLAD Scheme. I look forward to hearing from you soon."

Letter dated 10 March, 2000 from Shri A.K.S. Vijayan MP

"I am writing this in connection with introduction of e-governance in Government Administration of Thiruvarur District.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister has been advocating Information Technology as the present government's major thrust in bringing about development of the economy of India. The budget speech of the Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha, revealed to the world, the commitment of the present government in realizing the goal of a stronger India with better Information Technology infrastructure. Under the MPLAD Scheme, the Government has already approved 5 electronic projects, which are basically meant to give a thrust to database building and oriented towards catering to the higher education needs. However the scheme awfully failed to address the present Government's dream of using Information Technology as a thrust point for realizing a stronger and able India. The present guidelines do not provide electronic administration at the State level or the Central level, through the commitment to provide electronic administration had been made clear in unequivocal terms by the Prime Minister.

Tamil Nadu has also been in the forefront in the use of Information Technology especially in the field of Government administration. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalainger Karunanidhi, has been giving tremendous thrust to Information Technology in the field of Government, education and industrial sector. The Hon'ble Chief Minister had already declared his native district Tiruvarur as pilot district for computerization of all government activities starting from district level to block level. My parliamentary constituency (Nagapattinam) people have fallen in love with Information Technology due to the thrust given to the Information Technology sector for land and got the lands transferred

in their names in Taluk offices online within hours. As e-governance is the most felt need of my constituency people, judging from the spirit behind the guidelines my predecessor has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 55 lakh (1998-99: Rs 10 lakhs and 1999-2000 : Rs. 45 Lakhs) for bringing about e-district administration covering various government offices at the district, taluk and block level. These sanctions were within Rs. 10 lakhs for each segment as laid down in the guidelines. E-governance is not found in the negative list communicated by the Central Government. As this is the most felt need of Nagapattinam Parliamentary constituency's people, I request that electronic government administration (e-governance) may kindly be included in the list of electronic projects.

I request your kind consideration of the above subject at the earliest. I also request that the funds already sanctioned for the e-district project in Tiruvarur district may be ratified."

6.4 In this connection, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their comments, *vide* their communication dated 4 April, 2000 have stated as under:

"The request to allow E-Governance and development of related software under MPLADS would basically require allowing implementation of computers scheme in Government offices which is not allowed at present. The computer scheme is allowed under MPLADS for Government and Government aided educational institutions only for the benefit of student community.

As regards, maintenance of accounts and issue of pass books, it is stated that the accounts for MPLADS are being maintained by the District Heads as per the established procedures of the concerned State Governments. The Collectors are to open separate book account in the nationalised Banks in respect of each MP for which the Pass Books are required to be available with the concerned District Heads."

Recommendation

6.5 The Committee note the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their comments that the request to allow E-Governance and development of related software under MPLADS would basically require allowing implementation of computer scheme in Government offices which was not allowed at present. The computer scheme was allowed under MPLADS for Government aided educational institutions only, for the benefit of student community.

As regards maintenance of accounts and issue of pass books, the Committee note that the accounts for MPLADS were being maintained by the District Heads as per the established procedures of the concerned State Governments. The Collectors are to open separate books of account in the nationalised Banks in respect of each MP for which photocopies of updated passbooks would be made available to concerned MP by 10th of every alternate month.

VII

Use of MPLADS Funds for construction of MP office in every Parliamentary constituency

7.1 Shri B. Venkateshwarlu, MP addressed a representation dated 25 February, 2000 to Hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS regarding use of MPLADS Funds for construction of MP office in every Parliamentary constituency for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

7.2 In the representation, it was submitted as follows:—

> "I request you to kindly sanction Rs. 10 lakhs for construction of MP's Office in every Parliamentary Constituency, which will be more useful for the public of the respective constituency.
>
> Please consider the above subject immediately and sanction the required funds at the earliest."

7.3 The representation was forwarded to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for obtaining a factual note on it. In their reply dated 6 April, 2000, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation stated as under:—

> "Under the scheme, works of capital nature leading to creation of durable assets, for public use can be taken up. Again guidelines on MPLADS lay down specific restrictions on construction of office buildings, MPLADS funds, therefore, can not be used for construction of office for MPs in the Parliamentary constituency "

Recommendation

7.4 The Committee note the proposal and position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their comments that under the MPLAD Scheme, works of capital nature leading to creation of durable assets for public use can be taken up. Again Guidelines on MPLADS lay down specific restrictions on construction of office buildings.

VIII

Use of MPLADS funds for purchase of Storage Refrigerator for Blood Banks

8.1 The Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation addressed a letter dated 12 May, 2000 to the Secretary General, Lok Sabha forwarding therewith a copy of letter from Shri Dinsha J. Patel, MP addressed to Shri Arun Shourie, Minister of State for Statistics and Programme Implementation and Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances regarding use of MPLADS funds for purchase of storage refrigerator for Blood Banks for consideration of Committee on MPLADS (Lok Sabha).

8.2 In his letter, Shri Dinsha J. Patel, MP stated as follows:—

> "Your department has disallowed the purchase of storage refrigerator under MPLADS identifying this refrigerator under inventory and stock. The grant was set aside to the Blood Bank of India Redcross Society, Nadiad branch to purchase the refrigerator to store the blood. Please refer to the item No. 23 in the list of illustrative works. The item allows the purchase of an ambulance by Redcross Society. Why not storage refrigerator? The blood preserved in this refrigerator can save one's life. Please intervene and rectify the item and allow the purchase."

8.3 In this regard, the Secretary to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation stated as under:—

> "Please find enclosed a copy of letter dated 8.5.2000 addressed to MOS (S&PI) by Shri Dinsha J. Patel regarding purchase of refrigerator for preserving blood in Blood Banks. This Ministry had earlier clarified that purchase of refrigerator cannot be allowed under MPLADS as the same was classifiable under inventory item. Therefore, the request of the Hon'ble MP for allowing a refrigerator under MPLADS for Blood Bank may be placed before the Committee of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha on MPLADS for consideration for relaxation of the guidelines in view of the specific restriction on purchase of inventory items of any type under which refrigerator would be classifiable. The guidelines permit purchase of medical equipment only for Government hospitals."

8.4 Item No. 23 of the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS envisages as follows:—

> "Procurement of hospital equipment like X-Ray machines, ambulances for Government Hospitals and setting up of mobile

dispensaries in rural areas by Government Panchayati Institutions. Ambulance can be provided to reputed service organisations like Red Cross, Ramakrishna Mission etc."

Recommendation

8.5 The Committee note the proposal of hon'ble Member regarding use of MPLADS funds for purchase of storage refrigerator for Blood Banks. They, while taking note of the position stated by the Ministry that purchase of refrigerator cannot be allowed under MPLADS as the same was classifiable under inventory item, however, are of the view that relaxation might be made for allowing purchase of storage refrigerator for blood banks as the blood preserved in such refrigerator can save lives. The Committee, therefore, recommend that item No. 23 of the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS might be amended to read as follows:—

"Procurement of hospital equipment like X-Ray machines, ambulances and storage refrigerator for Blood Banks for Government Hospitals and setting up of mobile dispensaries in rural areas by Government Panchayati Institutions. Ambulance can be provided to reputed service organisations like Red Cross, Ramakrishna Mission etc."

IX

Suggestions to amend Guidelines on MPLADS regarding (i) allowing Rajya Sabha MPs to take up works under MPLADS out of the State of their election and (ii) utilisation of MPLADS funds for construction of Hall or Auditorium for Bar Association of Lawyers

9.1 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation endorsed a copy of letter dated 9 March, 2000 enclosing therewith copies of letters dated 9 January and 22 February, 2000 from Shri V.N. Gadgil, Ex-MP (Rajya Sabha) and a copy of letter from Dr. L.M. Singhvi, MP (Rajya Sabha) dated 14 January, 2000 addressed to Shri Arun Shourie, Minister of State for Planning, Statistics and Programme Implementation and Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances giving suggestions therein to amend Guidelines on MPLADS regarding (i) allowing Rajya Sabha MPs to take up works under MPLAD Scheme out of the State of their election and (ii) utilisation of MPLADS funds for construction of Hall or Auditorium for Bar Association of Lawyers for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

9.2 In his letter, Shri V.N. Gadgil, Ex-MP (Rajya Sabha) stated as follows:

(i) *Letter dated 14 January, 2000*

"The rules made by your Ministry at present do not allow a Rajya Sabha MP to allot any MP Development Fund outside his District. I find that this restriction is very unreasonable.

My family comes originally from District Ratnagiri in Maharashtra which is one of the most backward Districts of Maharashtra. The people there naturally expect MPs hailing from the District to help them in the development of the area. I am unable to help them at all.

Recently statue of my father late Shri N.V. Gadgil was unveiled at Malhargarh, District Mandsaur in Madhya Pradesh, by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Digvijay Singh. My father was born in Malhargarh and, therefore, Nagar Panchayat of Malhargarh have installed his statue. The District is very backward and hardly any satisfactory roads are there. There is problem of drinking water and there is a proposal to construct a small Dam at Malhargarh and this will, to a large extent, meet the needs of the people. In the Function held on January 12, 2000, several Speakers expected me to help them in the development of the area.

I promised them that if your Ministry allows me to divert the funds out of Rupees two crores allotted to me, I will spend one crore in

Pune District and other one crore in Mandsaur District. Similarly, the restrictions on allotting gas coupons and telephone connections outside your own District are very unreasonable. I know some High Court has given a decision to this effect but I think we should get the decision changed so that Rajya Sabha Member can allot gas coupons and telephone connections outside his District. A person wanting gas connection or telephone connection whose relations with the Local MP are not cordial, will never get a gas connection or a telephone connection.

I, therefore, request you to consider both these cases and remove restrictions which require that the Rajya Sabha MPs cannot allot development funds or gas connections/telephone connections outside his District."

(ii) *Letter dated 22 February, 2000*

"Vide my letter dated January 9, 2000 I had written to you about some problems that arise out of the guidelines issued regarding MPs Local Development Funds. I have received a letter dated February 8, 2000 by the Secretary of your Ministry replying to my letter of January 9, 2000.

I would like to draw your attention to the convention which has prevailed right from the days of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru that MP's letter is replied by the Minister himself and not by the Secretary of the Department. I may also add that I have received during the last few months a number of replies by the Prime Minister himself.

I had raised an issue regarding allowing Members of Rajya Sabha to take up works outside the state of their election. The Secretary, in his reply only said that the guidelines do not permit elected members of Rajya Sabha to taken up works outside the state of their election. This is hardly the satisfactory reply. My plea was that the guidelines should be changed and members of Rajya Sabha should be allowed to take up works outside the State of their elections. There may be cases where a local Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha MP may not take up particular scheme as the proponent of the scheme may not have good equation with the local MPs. I therefore, once again urge upon you to change the guidelines."

9.3 In his letter Dr. L.M. Singhvi, MP (Rajya Sabha) stated as under:—

"I have been a Member of the Bar for more than 47 years and have been President of the Supreme Court Bar Association for several terms. That is the community to which I belong in a primary

sense. During the Golden Jubilee year of the Constitution and the Supreme Court, I would request for special dispensation enabling me to contribute upto the maximum permissible limits for the two golden jubilee occasions for construction of Halls or auditoria for the Bar outside Rajasthan. Such a dispensation has been made in case of relief work in Orissa as well as for Anglo-Indian community. I hope the principle can be extended generally with a ceiling of 25 per cent for development outside the State or the parliamentary constituency."

9.4 In this connection, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in thier comments, *vide* their communication dated 9 March, 2000 stated as follows:—

"The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith a copy of letter dated 22.2.2000 received from Shri V.N. Gadgil MP (RS) who has requested that the guidelines may be amended so as to allow the Rajya Sabha MPs to spend MPLADS funds even out of the States from which they have been elected. Also enclosed is a copy of the letter dated 14.1.2000 received from Dr. L.M. Singhvi, MP (RS) who has made a similar request to allow the MPLADS funds to be spent outside the State of election. He has also requested that the funds may be allowed to be utilised for the construction of hall or auditorium for the Bar Association of the Lawyers.

(2) As per para 1.2 of the guidelines, Rajya Sabha MPs can select works in one or more districts from the State from where they have been elected. Thus the Rajya Sabha MPs are not allowed, at present, to spend MPLADS funds outside the State of their election.

(3) The guidelines do not permit construction of office buildings, residential buildings and other buildings relating to Central and State Governments Departments, agencies and organisations. Therefore, the construction of hall or auditorium for Bar Association, if these form part of a court, will be covered by this restriction contained of item 1 Appendix 2 of the guidelines. The halls for Bar Associations if are to be constructed for trusts, societies or private institutions are prohibited as per item 2 Appendix 2 of the guidelines. Moreover, if these halls are to be used by a particular group and are not available for use by public in general, the same can not be undertaken.

(4) Since the requests received are not covered by the guidelines, as mentioned, above, it has been decided with the approval of MOS (S&PI) to consider the matter in the MPLADS Committee of both the Houses. It is, therefore, requested that the matter may be placed before the RS/LS Committee on MPLADS for consideration."

Recommendations

9.5 The Committee note the proposal for allowing Rajya Sabha MPs to take up works under MPLADS outside the State of their election and agree

with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that as per para 1.2 of the Guidelines on MPLADS, Rajya Sabha MPs can select works in one or more districts from the State from where they have been elected. Thus, the Rajya Sabha MPs are not allowed, at present, to spend MPLADS funds outside the State of their election. The Committee also feel that let the matter might be first considered by the Committee on MPLADS (Rajya Sabha) as it *prima facie* comes under their domain.

9.6 The Committee note the proposal regarding utilisation of MPLADS funds for construction of Hall or Auditorium, Library Building for Bar Association. The Committee peruse the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the Guidelines do not permit construction of office buildings, residential buildings and other buildings relating to Central and State Governments Departments, agencies and organisations. Therefore, the construction of hall or auditorium for Bar Association, if these form part of a court, would be covered by this restriction contained in item 1 Appendix 2 of the Guidelines. If the halls for Bar Associations are to be constructed for trusts, societies or private institutions, they are prohibited as per item 2 Appendix 2 of the Guidelines. Moreover, if these halls are to be used by a particular group and are not available for use by public in general, the same might not be undertaken.

The Committee while not accepting the aforesaid views of the Ministry in this regard recommend *inter-alia* that an amendment might be made by adding Item No. 26(i) in the Illustrative List of Works Appendix I that can be taken up under MPLADS to read as follow:—

"26(i) Construction of Halls/Auditorium/Library Building for Bar Association."

9.7 In this context, the Committee also note the proposal of hon'ble Chairman Committee on MPLADS for making provision in the Guidelines on MPLADS for construction of building of Lion's Club/Rotary Clubs subject to a ceiling of Rs. 5 lakh. The Committee approve the proposal and recommend that the ceiling should be raised to Rs. 10 lakh by making an amendment by adding Item No. 26(ii) in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS Appendix I to read as follows:—

"26(ii) Construction of Lion's Club/Rotary Clubs subject to a ceiling of Rs. 10 lakh."

X

Utilisation of unspent balance of Rajya Sabha Ex. MPs to the successor Rajya Sabha MPs under MPLADS

10.1 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation have addressed a letter dated 11 July, 2000 enclosing therewith a letter dated 25 May, 2000 from Shri B.P. Singhal, MP (Rajya Sabha) to MOS (S&PI) regarding utilisation of unspent balance of Rajya Sabha Ex-MPs to the successor Rajya Sabha MPs under MPLADS for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

10.2 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their communication stated as under:—

> "Shri B.P. Singhal, Hon'ble MP addressed a letter dated 25 May, 2000 to MOS (S&PI) regarding distribution of unspent balances of Rajya Sabha Ex-MPs to the successor Rajya Sabha MPs. Shri Singhal has suggested that an amount equal to 10% of the left-over balance may be kept by the DCs and the 90% amount should be allowed to the successor MPs. In this connection, it is stated that this ministry has already advised all the State Governments to issue instructions to the nodal departments dealing with the MPLAD Scheme to coordinate with the districts and get information on balances and work out share of funds to be passed on from the retired Rajya Sabha MPs to their successors. A copy of the instructions dated 25.4.2000 is enclosed (*see* Annexure). The cost of eligible works mentioned in column B of the enclosed letter is required to be reckoned before arriving at the unspent balance in respect of a retired Rajya Sabha MP. This is likely to take some time. The suggestion given by Shri Singhal to keep 10% of the unspent balance for the left-over works may not be feasible because if more money is required to complete the eligible works of Ex-Rajya Sabha MP, it may be difficult to get it back from the distributed unspent balances among the successor MPs.
>
> (2) The Ministry have requested that the matter may be placed before the respective Committee of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on MPLADS for consideration."

Recommendation

10.3 The Committee note the proposal of hon'ble Member (Rajya Sabha) regarding utilisation of unspent balance of Rajya Sabha Ex-MPs to the successor Rajya Sabha MPs under MPLADS. The Committee feel that as the matter more pertinently relate to Rajya Sabha MPs, therefore, the Committee on MPLADS (Rajya Sabha) might first make their recommendation on this subject before this Committee examine the matter.

ANNEXURE

S.No. 33(I)

D.O.No. C/8/97-MPLADS

April 25, 2000

Dear Chief Secretary,

This relates to utilisation of unspent amount of MPLADS funds available in the account of retired Rajya Sabha MPs. As per the Government decision, announced in the Parliament on 23.12.1998, the unspent balance left by the predecessor Rajya Sabha MPs in a particular state will be equally distributed amongst the successors, i.e., newly-elected Rajya Sabha MPs in that particular state.

2. A list of predecessor and successor Rajya Sabha Members representing your State/UT from 1993 to 1998 as furnished by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat *vide* their letter No. 23(i)/99-MA dated 24.2.1999 is enclosed. You may please suitably advise the nodal department dealing with the MPLAD Scheme of your state to coordinate with the districts, get information on balances and work out share of funds to be passed on from the retired Rajya Sabha MPs to their successors. For this purpose, they may adopt the following procedure:

I. Seek reports from the concerned Nodal District Heads about the balance available in the account of the respective retired Rajya Sabha MP. The criteria for calculating the balance available in the account of the Rajya Sabha MPs will be as per para 3.9 of the MPLADS guidelines which is elaborated as under:

A	B
1	2
Total release of funds made by the Govt. of India in respect of the Rajya Sabha MP during his tenure (i.e.) till his date of retirement.	(i) Cost of all the works completed till the date of his retirement+
	(ii) Further amount spent/required for the works which were under execution on the date of retirement+

1	2
	(iii) Total amount required for executing all the works which were sanctioned on or before his date of retirement but not taken up till then+
	(iv) Total amount required for all such work which could not be sanctioned till his date of retirement but were recommended by the MP prior to 45 days to date of his retirement, provided these works are otherwise as per norms.

II. The balance left out after deducting B from A is the amount which are to aggregated by the concerned Nodal Department for the batch of retiring MPs.

III. The aggregate amount in respect of one batch of retiring MPs for a particular year should be added up and then equally divided amongst the MPs elected against the vacancies caused by the said batch of retiring MPs. For example, if a total balance of Rs. 100 lakhs is calculated in respect of a batch of 5 retired MPs, the share of next 5 MPs elected against the vacancies of the said batch, would be Rs. 20 lakhs each.

IV. The re-elected MPs from the same state should be excluded from this process as the concerned Nodal District Collectors would have been implementing their scheme in continuation and hence it would not be possible to work out the balance left out in their previous term.

3. The interest accrued on funds released under the scheme in case of retired Rajya Sabha MPs will also have to be divided equally to their successors. A separate working may have to be done to find share of interest amount for each successor MP.

4. I would request you to kind issue instructions to the concerned Nodal Department of your State to take immediate action in this matter accordingly to collect information from the districts about the unspent funds of the retired Rajya Sabha MPs and work out share of each of their successors and send this information to this Department so, that necessary action could be taken by the Department.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,

Sd./-
(K.V. Irnivaya)

Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments/Union Territories.

XI

Identification of an Agency through which a particular Work is executed under MPLADS

11.1 During the course of evidence held on 26 July, 2000 with the representatives of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the Committee on MPLADS considered Para 2.1 of the Guidelines on MPLADS regarding identification of an Agency through which a particular work was to be executed under MPLADS. Para 2.1 of the Guidelines on MPLADS envisages as follows:—

> "Each MP will give a choice of works to the concerned Head of the District who will get them implemented by following the established procedures, that is, he may be guided by the procedure laid down by the State Government subject to these Guidelines. In regard to works in urban areas their implementation can be done through Commissioners/Chief Executive Officers of Corporations, Municipalities etc., or through the Heads of District concerned as per the option of the MPs. Implementation agencies can be either Government or Panchayati Raj institutions or any other reputed non-governmental organisation who may be considered by the District Head as capable of implementing the works satisfactorily. Engagement of private contractors is prohibited, wherever extant Guidelines do not permit such engagement. For purposes of execution of works through Public Works Department (PWD), wings not necessarily exclusively dealing with civil construction, but having competence in civil construction can be engaged—like for example, Public Health Engineering, Rural Housing Departments/Wings, Housing Boards, Electricity Boards, Urban Development Authorities etc. The Head of the District shall identify the agency through which a particular work recommended by the MP should be executed."

Recommendation

11.2 The Committee peruse Para 2.1 of the Guidelines on MPLADS relating to the aspect of identification of an Agency through which a particular work was to be executed under MPLADS. The Committee are of the opinion that Para 2.1 of the Guidelines on MPLADS was not clear as to who was the final authority— Member of Parliament or District Collector—to decide about the agency through which a particular work was to be executed under MPLADS. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation should make it clear and issue necessary instructions in this regard without any delay. The Committee feel that Member being representatives of the Public should have the discretion in the identification of agency through which a particular work was to be executed under MPLADS afterall his discretion was limited only to a Government Agency of the State Government.

XII

Involvement of MPs in the distribution of MPLADS cheques to the beneficiaries under the MPLAD Scheme

12.1 The Committee at their sitting held on 26 July, 2000 deliberated over the matter regarding involvement of MPs in the distribution of MPLADS cheques to the beneficiaries under the MPLAD Scheme. "SHRI BALBIR SINGH, MP, and a Member of the Committee raised the matter that the District Collectors were not handing over the cheques to the Member of Parliament. The Collectors were hesitating to hand over the cheques to the Member of Parliament saying that they were private persons. The cheques were in the name of the Panchayats. There was no reason why Member could not be involved in handing over the cheque to the Panchayats."

12.2 In this connection, Shri R.L. Bhatia, MP, addressed a representation dated 1 August, 2000 to Hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLAD Scheme on the above subject for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

12.3 In his representation, the Hon'ble Member stated as follows:—

"The Collector of Amritsar has refused to involve me as Member of Parliament in distribution of cheques for the development of the area through me.

Under the instructions of Punjab Government he is doing so.

According to the rules, the Collector can place work with the agencies according to the rules.

I shall be grateful if you send immediate instructions to Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar to involve me in the distribution of MPLAD cheques to the beneficiaries."

Recommendation

12.4 The Committee note the proposal regarding involvement of MPs in the distribution of MPLADS cheques to the beneficiaries under the MPLAD Scheme. In the opinion of the Committee the concerned District Collector/ Magistrate should write to the MP informing him about the time of inauguration of the completed projects under MPLADS so that he could be present at the occasion. The Committee recommend that the concerned MP, if he so desires, might be asked to distribute the cheques to the beneficiary/ implementing agency under the MPLADS.

XIII

Suggestion for inclusion of MPLADS in the curricula of training programmes for IAS Probationers/Officers for effective implementation of MPLADS

13.1 Dr. B.B. Ramaiah, Chairman, Committee on MPLADS *vide* his note dated 10 August, 2000 has given a suggestion for inclusion of MPLADS in the curricula of training programmes for IAS Probationers/ Officers for effective implementation of MPLADS for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

In his note, Hon'ble Chairman stated as follows:—

"To enable effective implementation of MPLAD Scheme there is need to have emphasis on the Scheme in the regular training programmes, being conducted for IAS Officers from time to time. It is therefore, imperative that the following action plan needs to be recommended to the Government.

(i) Firstly in the induction training of IAS Probationers at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, the curricula should *inter alia* include a comprehensive focus on MPLAD Scheme. This will enable the probationers who are to man the District in later part of their career, a sound orientation on the Scheme.

(ii) Management Development Programmes should also cover *inter alia* the MPLAD Scheme to enable in servive IAS Officers to get updated on the operation of the Scheme from time to time.

(iii) Besides, special programmes on execution of MPLAD Scheme should be designed for IAS Officers up to Senior Administrative Grade level and it should be compulsory for in service officers to be nominated in these courses once in three years. A record of such trainings attended should be kept in his service records.

The above points may be included in the agenda for the next meeting to be held on 16 August, 2000, so that after consideration by the Committee a recommendation to this effect may be sent to the Government."

Recommendation

The Committee peruse the suggestion of Hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS for inclusion of MPLADS in the curricula of training programmes for IAS Probationers/Officers for effective implementation of MPLADS. The Committee while approving the suggestion recommend that to enable effective implementation of MPLAD Scheme, there was a need to

have emphasis on the Scheme in the regular training programmes, being conducted for IAS Officers from time to time. The Committee also desire that the following action plan should be recommended to the Government, in this regard:

"(i) Firstly in the induction training of IAS Probationers at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, the curricula should *inter alia* include a comprehensive focus on MPLAD Scheme. This will enable the probationers who are to man the District in later part of their career, a sound orientation on the Scheme.

(ii) Management Development Programmes should also cover *inter alia* the MPLAD Scheme to enable in service IAS Officers to get updated on the operation of the Scheme from time to time.

(iii) Besides, special programmes on execution of MPLAD Scheme should be designed for IAS Officers up to Senior Administrative Grade level and it should be compulsory for in service officers to be nominated in these courses once in three years. A record of such training attended should be kept in his service records."

NEW DELHI;
18 *August*, 2000

27 *Sravana*, 1922 (S)

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH,
Chairman,
Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme.

OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

1.6 The Committee peruse the proposal for providing a vehicle to MP for inspection of works executed under MPLAD Scheme. The Committee feel that vehicle was not to be purchased every year and it would be a one time affair. The Committee further note that five to seven per cent of interest accrued on MPLADS funds should be earmarked for purchase of vehicle so that Members could periodically inspect works. In the opinion of the Committee, such step would have a tremendous effects on delivering goods to the public.

The Committee also express their views that the vehicle be kept with the District Collector who should be the custodian and provide it to MP on request and it would be meant for MP only. This vehicle could also be used for monitoring development works in the constituency. The Committee also desire that there should be a ceiling on maintenance expenditure of the vehicle.

1.7 During the course of evidence with the representatives of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on 26 July, 2000 the Committee deliberated over the matter for providing a vehicle to MP for inspection of works executed under MPLADS. The Committee recommended that the concerned District Collector / Magistrate should provide a vehicle to the MP for inspection of works executed under MPLADS in his parliamentary constituency.

2.5 The Committee note the proposal of the Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas for use of MPLADS Funds for providing LPG cylinder and regulator women below poverty line. The Committee while not approving the proposal of the Hon'ble Minister agree with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the proposal for contributing Rs.1000/- for each gas connection from MPLADS Funds cannot be accepted as it was prohibited under item 4 Appendix 2 of the Guidelines. The Committee note that the proposal of hon'ble Minister not being in conformity with the objectives of MPLAD Scheme. Hence, the MPLADS Funds may not be used for individual benefits.

3.4 The Committee note the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their comments on the various suggestions. In regard to purchase of artificial limbs and cycles for distribution to disabled persons under MPLADS, the Committee recommend that provisions should be made to provide artificial limbs and cycles for disabled persons under MPLADS to a fixed number of needy persons in a year in the presence of State Government officials.

3.5 In regard to clause 6.1 of the guidelines of MPLADS, the Committee recommend that it may be amended to read as follows:—

".....with the name of MP shall permanently and prominently be erected at the sites."

3.6 The Committee on consideration of the proposal of Hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS regarding contribution of Rs. 5 lakh out of MPLADS Funds for *Internet Dhabas* in all Block/Mandal Headquarters in the country recommend that funds should be provided for this purpose as it fell under the infrastructure category.

4.4 The Committee note the suggestion. While agreeing with the reply of the Ministry in this regard the Committee recommend that as per criteria approved for release of funds, expenditure statement showing unsanctioned balance less than Rs. 1.00 crore (recently raised from Rs. 50.00 lakh to Rs. 1.00 crore) might be required.

4.5 On consideration of proposal to amend Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme in this regard, the Committee recommend that clause 3.2 of the Guidelines on MPLADS might be amended to read as follows:

"As far as possible, all sanctions of works should be accorded within 30 days from the date of receipt of proposal from the concerned MP."

4.6 The Committee while taking note of the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard recommend that any specific case of abnormal delay in transfer of funds from Nodal District to other districts should be enquired into, if brought to the notice of the Ministry.

4.7 The Committee note the proposal and recommend the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the works upto Rs. one lakh can be executed departmentally by State Government Agencies to avoid any delay as provided in Para 3.5 of the Guidelines on MPLADS. Tendering for works less than Rs. one lakh should be avoided as far as possible.

4.9 The Committee note the above suggestions. The Committee further note that as per latest existing instructions, the MPLADS funds are required to be kept in the nationalised banks only, by opeining separate account in respect of each MP. There has been requests from MPs that they should be provided photocopies of the passbooks for knowing the pace of utilisation of funds and the balance available in their accounts. The matter has been considered by Government and it has been decided that photocopies of updated passbooks would be made available to the concerned MPs by 10th of every alternate month. The Committee also feel that there is no harm in

agreeing to the suggestion that 'depositing the funds in Nationalized Banks should be made in consultation with the concerned MP'. The Committee desire that the existing instructions should be reiterated to all DCs for compliance by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

4.10 The Committee note the proposal for enhancing allocation in MP quota fund. The Committee on consideration of the position stated by the Ministry that "MOS (S&PI) has already announced in Lok Sabha on 10 May, 2000 that allocation of MPLADS funds cannot be enhanced from Rs.2.00 crore", recommend that the allocation of MPLADS funds should be enhanced to Rs. 3.00 crore per Member to meet the requirement of development works in their constituencies.

4.11 The Committee note the proposal and approve the position stated by the Ministry in this regard that MPLADS funds can be allowed for construction of Community Halls and Community Mandapams. Construction of buildings for Mahila Mandals can also be taken up.

4.12 The Committee note the proposal and while agreeing with the views of the Ministry in this regard that the Guidelines already specifically prohibit construction of Office Buildings, Residential Buildings and other buildings relating to Central or State Governments Departments, Agencies or Organisations, however, recommend that the Panchayat offices should not be covered by this restriction.

5.5 The Committee note the proposal of the hon'ble Member and agree with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the basic objective of the MPLAD Scheme was to take up works which were developmental in nature and lead to creation of durable assets for use by the general public. Any work relating to private enterprise or creation of asset for individual benefit has been specifically prohibited. That is why commercial organisations, trusts, registered societies, private institutions or cooperative institutions have been put in Appendix-2, SI.No.2 and have been covered under the prohibited category. The type of beneficiaries indicated by the Hon'ble MP were registered societies not covered under MPLADS as the benefit would accrue to a group of persons only and not the general public, which would be against the main objective of the scheme.

The Committee desire that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation as assured during evidence should take up the matter with the State Government of Maharashtra for relaxation of certain restrictions imposed in this regard to obviate difficulties of small/marginal farmers in all States including Maharashtra.

6.5 The Committee note the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their comments that the request to allow E-Governance and development of related software under MPLADS would basically require allowing implementation of computer scheme in Government offices which was not allowed at present. The computer scheme

was allowed under MPLADS for Government aided educational institutions only, for the benefit of student community.

As regards maintenance of accounts and issue of pass books, the Committee note that the accounts for MPLADS were being maintained by the District Heads as per the established procedures of the concerned State Governments. The Collectors are to open separate books of account in the nationalised Banks in respect of each MP for which photocopies of updated pass books would be made available to concerned MP by 10th of every alternate month.

7.4 The Committee note the proposal and position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their comments that under the MPLAD Scheme, works of capital nature leading to creation of durable assets for public use can be taken up. Again Guidelines on MPLADS lay down specific restrictions on construction of office buildings.

8.5 The Committee note the proposal of hon'ble Member regarding use of MPLADS funds for purchase of storage refrigerator for Blood Banks. They, while taking note of the position stated by the Ministry that purchase of refrigerator cannot be allowed under MPLADS as the same was classifiable under inventory item, however, are of the view that relaxation might be made for allowing purchase of storage refrigerator for blood banks as the blood preseved in such refrigerator can save lives. The Committee, therefore, recommend that item No. 23 of the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS might be amended to read as follows:

> "Procurement of hospital equipment like X-Ray machines, ambulances and storage refrigerator for Blood Banks for Government Hospitals and setting up of mobile dispensaries in rural areas by Government Panchayati Institutions. Ambulance can be provided to reputed service organisations like Red Cross, Ramakrishna Mission etc."

9.5 The Committee note the proposal for allowing Rajya Sabha MPs to take up works under MPLADS outside the State of their election and agree with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that as per para 1.2 of the Guidelines on MPLADS, Rajya Sabha MPs can select works in one or more districts from the State from where they have been elected. Thus, the Rajya Sabha MPs are not allowed, at present, to spend MPLADS funds outside the State of their election. The Committee also feel that let the matter might be first considered by the Committee on MPLADS (Rajya Sabha) as it *prima facie* comes under their domain.

9.6 The Committee note the proposal regarding utilisation of MPLADS funds for construction of Hall or Auditorium, Library Building for Bar Association. The Committee peruse the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the Guidelines do not permit construction of office buildings, residential buildings and other buildings relating to Central and State Governments Departments, agencies and organisations. Therefore, the construction of hall or auditorium for Bar Association, if these form part of a court, would

be covered by this restriction contained in Item 1 Appendix 2 of the Guidelines. If the halls for Bar Associations are to be constructed for trusts, societies or private institutions, they are prohibited as per item 2 Appendix 2 of the Guidelines. Moreover, if these halls are to be used by a particular group and are not available for use by public in general, the same might not be undertaken.

The Committee while not accepting the aforesaid views of the Ministry in this regard recommend *inter-alia* that an amendment might be made by adding Item No. 26(i) in the Illustrative List of Works Appendix I that can be taken up under MPLADS to read as follows:—

"26(i) Construction of Halls/Auditorium/Library Building for Bar Association."

9.7 In this context, the Committee also note the proposal of hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS for making provision in the Guidelines on MPLADS lakh. The Committee approve the proposal and recommend that the ceiling should for construction of building of Lion's Club/Rotary Clubs subject to a ceiling of Rs. 5 lakh be raised to Rs. 10 lakh by making an amendmeat by adding Item No. 26(ii) in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS Appendix I to read as follows:—

"26(ii) Construction of Lion's Club/Rotary Clubs subject to a ceiling of Rs. 10 lakh."

10.3 The Committee note the proposal of hon'ble Member (Rajya Sabha) regarding utilisation of unspent balance of Rajya Sabha Ex-MPs to the successor Rajya Sabha MPs under MPLADS. The Committee feel that as the matter more pertinently relate to Rajya Sabha MPs, therefore, the Committee on MPLADS (Rajya Sabha) might first make their recommendation on this subject before this Committee examine the matter.

11.2 The Committee peruse Para 2.1 of the Guidelines on MPLADS relating to the aspect of identification of an Agency through which a particular work was to be executed under MPLADS. The Committee are of the opinion that Para 2.1 of the Guidelines on MPLADS was not clear as to who was the final authority—Member of Parliament or District Collector—to decide about the agency through which a particular work was to be executed under MPLADS. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Statstics and Programme Implementation should make it clear and issue necessary instructions in this regard without any delay. The Committee feel that Member being representatives of the Public should have the discretion in the indentification of agency through which a particular work was to be executed under MPLADS afterall his discretion was limited only to a Government Agency of the State Government.

12.4 The Committee note the proposal regarding involvement of MPs in the distribution of MPLADS cheques to the beneficiaries under the MPLAD Scheme. In the opinion of the Committee, the concerned District Collector/

Magistrate should write to the MP informing him about the time of inauguration of the completed projects under MPLADS so that he could be present at the occasion. The Committee recommend that the concerned MP, if he so desires, might be asked to distribute the cheques to the beneficiary/ implementing agency under the MPLADS.

13.3 The Committee peruse the suggestion of Hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS for inclusion of MPLADS in the curricula of training programmes for IAS Probationers/Officers for effective implementation of MPLADS. The Committee while approving the suggestion recommend that to enable effective implementation of MPLAD Scheme, there was a need to have emphasis on the Scheme in the regular training programmes, being conducted for IAS Officers from time to time.

The Committee also desire that the following action plan should be recommended to the Government, in this regard:—

" (i) Firstly in the induction training of IAS Probationers at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, the curricula should *inter alia* include a comprehensive focus on MPLAD Scheme. This will enable the probationers who are to man the District in later part of their career, a round orientation on the Scheme.

(ii) Management Development Programmes should also cover *inter alia* the MPLAD Scheme to enable in service IAS Officers to get updated on the operation of the Scheme from time to time.

(iii) Besides, special programmes on execution of MPLAD Scheme should designed for IAS Officers up to Senior Administrative Grade level and it should be compulsory for in service officers to be nominted in these courses once in three years. A record of such training attended should be kept in his service records."

APPENDIX I

MINUTES OF SEVENTH SITTING OF COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LOK SABHA)

The Committee sat on Wednesday, 21 June, 2000 from 1400 to 1530 hours.

PRESENT

Dr. Bolla Bulli Ramaiah — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Bikram Keshari Deo
3. Shri Saiduzzama
4. Shri Chandrakant Khaire
5. Shri K. Malaisamy
6. Shri Sis Ram Ola
7. Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan
8. Shri Balbir Singh
9. Kunwar Akhilesh Singh
10. Shri Chinmayanand Swami

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri John Joseph — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri K.L. Narang — *Director*

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members and apprised them that claim of TA/DA for the sitting of the Committee proposed for 8 June, 2000 but postponed for Monday, the 12th June, 2000 has been forwarded to MSA Branch for necessary action.

3. The Committee then took up for consideration three Memoranda containing proposals for amendment to Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme. The decisions/recommendations are given memorandum-wise seriatim;

(i) Memorandum No. 7 regading **"Use of MPLADS Funds for providing a vehicle to MP for inspection of works executed under MPLAD Scheme."**

The Committee deliberated over the proposal for providing a vehicle to MP for inspection of works executed under MPLAD Scheme and disagreed with the recommendation of the Committee on MPLADS in Rajya Sabha which has rejected the proposal. Members were of the opinion that vehicle was not to be purchased every year. It will be a one time affair. Five to seven per cent of interest accrued on MPLADS funds should be earmarked for purchase of vehicle, so that Members could

periodically inspect works. Such a step would have a tremendous effect on delivering goods to the public.

Members expressed their views that the vehicles be kept with the Collector who would be custodian and provide it to MP on request and it should be meant for MPs only. It could also be used for monitoring developmental works in the constituency. It was agreed upon that a ceilling should be there on maintenance and expenditure of the vehicle. Ultimately, the Committee approved the proposal.

The Committee however decided to hear views of representatives of the Ministry during their oral evidence.

(ii) Memorandum No. 8 regarding **"Use of MPLADS funds for providing LPG Cylinder and Regulator to women below poverty line"**

The Committee considered the Memorandum and agreed with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the proposal for contributing Rs. 1000/- for each gas connection from MPLADS funds cannot be accepted as it was prohibited under item 4 Appendix 2 of the guidelines. Further, the MPLADS funds cannot be used for individual benefits as per item 8 Appendix 2 of the guidelines.

(iii) Memorandum No. 9 regarding **"Suggestions to amend Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme"**

(i) The Committee deliberated over the suggestions to amend Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme and recommended *inter-alia* among other things that on Page 7 Clause 6.1 of the Guidelines on MPLADS might be amended to read as follows:

"...with the name of MP shall permanently and prominently be erected at the sites".

(ii) The Committee considered the comments of Ministry on purchase of artificial limbs and cycles for distribution to disabled persons. Members were of the opinion that provisions should be made to provide artificial limbs and cycles for disabled persons under MPLADS to a fixed number of needy persons in a year in the presence of State Government officials. The Committee desired that the representatives of the Ministry may be called to explain their views in this regard.

The Committee then deliberated over the request for utilisation of MPLADS funds for IIT, Kanpur as made by Shri Arun Shourie, Minister of State for Planning, Statistics and programme Implementation and Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances. The Committee were of

the opinion that the MPLADS funds should be meant only for infrastructure purposes and the ceiling of Rs. 25 lakhs per work should not come in its way as it would be treated as a special case.

5. The Committee, thereafter, considered the request from Chairman, Committee on MPLADS to contribute Rs. 5 lakh out of MPLADS funds for *Internet Dhabas* in all Block/Mandal Headquarters in the country. The Committee agreed on it and it was decided that funds should be provided for this purpose as it fell under the infrastructure category.

6. The Committee also decided that the matter of enhancement of MPLADS funds from Rs. crore per year should be raised in the House in consultation with everyone and obtain a favourable decision in this regard.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX II

MINUTES OF EIGHTH SITTING OF COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LOK SABHA)

The Committee sat on Wednesday, 26 July, 2000 from 1600 to 1740 hours.

PRESENT

Dr. Bolla Bulli Ramaiah — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi
3. Shri Bikram Keshari Deo
4. Shri Saiduzzama
5. Shri Chandrakant Khaire
6. Shri Krishnamraju
7. Shri C. Kuppusami
8. Shri K. Malaisamy
9. Shri Shriniwas Patil
10. Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan
11. Shri Balbir Singh
12. Shri Kunwar Akhilesh Singh

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri John Joseph — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri K.L. Narang — *Director*
3. Shri S.C. Kaliraman — *Assistant Director*

Representatives from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

1. Shri R. Dutta — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri V.K. Arora — *Director*
3. Shri S.K. Malhotra — *Under Secretary*

2. At the outset, the Committee decided to hold their interactive session at Khajuraho with some of the Collectors of Madhya Pradesh and adjoining States to discuss problems relating to execution of developmental projects recommended by the Members under MPLADS. The Committee authorised the Hon'ble Chairman to seek necessary permission of HS for undertaking the above mentioned Tour to Khajuraho in the last week of September, 2000.

3. The Committee then took up for consideration seven Memoranda containing proposals for amendment to the Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme. The decisions/recommendations are given memorandum-wise seriatim;

(i) Memorandum No. 10 regarding **"Suggestions to amend Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme".**

4. The decisions/observations are given suggestion/point-wise as follows:

Point No. 1 "the total amount of Rs. 2.00 crore should be released in two instalments of Rs. 1.00 crore on April Ist and Rs. 1.00 crore on October Ist."

4.(1) The Committee considered the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their comments in this regard that the proposal to release MPLADS funds in two instalments of Rs. 1.00 crore each has been agreed to by the Ministry.

Point No. 2 "The utilisation certificate can be insisted only once in an year, i.e. at the end of financial year."

4.(2) The Committee considered the proposal and agreed with the reply of the Ministry in this regard that as per criteria approved for release of funds, expenditure statement showing unsanctioned balance less than Rs. 1.00 crore (recently raised from Rs. 50.00 lakh to Rs. 1.00 crore) was required.

Point No. 3 "Time for submitting the estimates should be limited to 15 days after conveying the allotment to the concerned Department."

4.(3) The Committee deliberated over the suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme in this regard and recommended that clause 3.2 of the Guidelines on MPLADS might be amended to read as follows:

"As far as possible, all sanctions of works should be accorded within 30 days from the date of receipt of proposal from the concerned MP."

Point No. 4 "Transfer of Funds to the Districts where the funds are allotted by the nodal District Collector, should be prompt. presently there is an abnormal delay. This should be done immediately after the administrative sanction is given by the District Collector where the work is allotted."

4.(4) The Committee considered the suggestion and approved the views of the Ministry of Statistics and programme Implementation in this regard that any specific case of abnormal delay in transfer of funds from Nodal District to other districts can be enquired into, if brought to the notice of the Ministry.

Point No. 5 "Works within Rs. one lakh can be given by nomination to avoid delay or they can do it departmentally."

4.(5) The Committee considered the suggestion and agreed with the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the works can be executed departmentally by State Government Agencies as provided in Para 3.5 of the Guidelines on MPLADS.

Point No. 6 "For every six months an account of the amount received, spent, interest accrued and the balance available with interest should be sent to the concerned MP. Even depositing the funds in Nationalized Banks should be made in consultation with the concerned MP."

Point No. 7 "An account of works recommended, works completed and amount spent should also be sent to the concerned MP once in Six Months coinciding with the release of amounts *i.e.* on first week of April and October every year."

4. (6&7) The Committee deliberated over the above proposals. While not agreeing with the comments of the Ministry "regarding the request of prior consultation with the MP for depositing the funds in Nationalized Bank, it may please be noted that in this regard the DCs have to exercise their discretion" the Committee recommended the original suggestion that for every six months an account of the amount received, spent, interest accrued and the balance available with interest should be sent to the concerned MP. The Committee also felt that there was no harm in agreeing to the suggestion that 'depositing the funds in Nationalized Banks should be made in consultation with the concerned MP'. The representatives of the Ministry assured that the existing instructions will be reiterated to all DCs for compliance.

Point No. 8 "The annual amount may be enhanced to Rs. 3.00 crore per member and released in two instalments of Rs. 1.50 crore each."

4.(8) The Committee deliberated over the proposals for enhancing allocation in MP quota fund. The Committee noted the position stated by the Ministry that "MOS (S&PI) has already announced in Lok Sabha on 10 May, 2000 that allocation of MPLADS funds cannot be enhanced from Rs. 2.00 crore". The Committee however felt that the allocation of MPLADS funds should be enhanced to meet the requirement of development works in their constituencies.

The Committee also decided that this matter should also be raised in the House effectively through joint efforts by all the Members. They were also of the opinion that, if need be, a delegation might call on the Hon'ble Prime Minister on this issue.

Point No. 9 "Allocation of funds may be allowed for construction of Community Halls, Community Mandapams, Mahila Mandals, Dwacra Training cum work halls, etc."

4.(9) The Committee considered the suggestion and agreed with the position stated by the Ministry in this regard that MPLADS funds can be allowed for construction of Community Halls and Community Mandapams. Construction of buildings for Mahila Mandals can also be taken up.

Point No. 10 "Allocation should be disallowed for the construction of Government Office Buildings which are meant for the occupation of offices (except for Panchayat offices.)"

4.(10) The Committee considered the suggestion and while agreeing with the views of the Ministry in this regard that the Guidelines already specifically prohibit construction of Office Buildings, Residential Buildings and other buildings relating to Central or State Governments Departments, Agencies or Organisations, however, felt that the Panchayat offices should not be covered by this restriction.

(ii) Memorandum No. 11 regarding **"Amendment to Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS funds by Cooperative Societies of small and marginal farmers for public irrigation in Maharashtra."**

5. The Committee considered Memorandum No. 11 and agreed with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the basic objective of the MPLAD Scheme was to take up works which were developmental in nature and lead to creation of durable assets for use by the general public. Any work relating to private enterprise or creation of asset for individual benefit has been specifically prohibited. That is why commercial organisations, trusts, registered societies, private institutions or cooperative institutions have been put in Appendix-2, Sl. No. 2 and have been covered under the prohibited category. The type of beneficiaries indicated by the Hon'ble MP were registered societies not covered under MPLADS as the benefit would accrue to a group of persons only and not the general public, which would be against the main objective of the scheme.

However, representatives of the Ministry present during the meeting assured the Committee that they would take up the matter with the State Government of Maharashtra for relaxation of certain restrictions imposed in this regard to obviate difficulties of small/marginal farmers in Maharashtra.

(iii) Memorandum No. 12 regarding **"Suggestions to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of Electronic Governance and Software Development in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS and maintenance of separate account and issue of Pass Book to MP."**

6. The Committee deliberated over the points made in the Memorandum and approved the comments of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the request to allow E-Governance and development of related software under MPLADS would basically require allowing implementation of computer scheme in Government offices which was not allowed at present. The computer scheme was allowed under MPLADS for Government aided educational institutions only, for the benefit of student community.

As regards maintenance of accounts and issue of pass books, it was stated that the accounts for MPLADS were being maintained by the District Heads as per the established procedures of the concerned State Governments. The Collectors are to open separate books of accounts in the nationalised Banks in respect of each MP for which the Pass Books are required to be available with the concerned District Heads.

(iv) Memorandum No. 13 regarding **"Use of MPLADS Funds for construction of MP office in every parliamentary constituency."**

7. The Committee considered the Memorandum and agreed with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that under the scheme, works of capital nature leading to creation of durable assets for public use can be taken up. Again Guidelines on MPLADS lay down specific restrictions on construction of office buildings. MPLADS funds cannot, therefore, be used for construction of office for MPs in the Parliamentary constituency.

(v) Memorandum No. 14 regarding **"use of MPLADS funds for purchase of Storage Refrigerator for Blood Banks."**

8. The Committee considered the Memorandum No. 14 regarding use of MPLADS funds for purchase of Storage Refrigerator for Blood Banks. The Members while agreeing with the views of the Ministry that purchase of refrigerator cannot be allowed under MPLADS as the same was classifiable under inventory item, expressed their opinion that relaxation might be given for allowing purchase of storage refrigerator for blood banks as the blood preserved in such refrigerator can save lives. The Committee recommended that item No. 23 of the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS might be amended to read as follows:

"Procurement of hospital equipment like X-Ray machines, ambulances and storage refrigerator for Blood Banks for Government Hospital and setting up of mobile dispensaries in rural areas by Government Panchayati Institutions. Ambulance can be provided to reputed service organisations like Red Cross, Ramakrishna Mission etc."

(vi) Memorandum No. 15 regarding **"Suggestions to amend Guidelines on MPLADS regarding (I) allowing Rajya Sabha MPs to take up**

works under MPLADS outside of the State of their election and (ii) utilisation of MPLADS funds for construction of Hall or Auditorium for Bar-Association of Lawyers."

9. The Committee deliberated over the Memorandum for allowing Rajya Sabha MPs to take up works under MPLADS outside of the State of their election and agreed with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that as per para 1.2 of the Guidelines on MPLADS, Rajya Sabha MPs can select works in one or more districts from the State from where they have been elected. Thus the Rajya Sabha MPs are not allowed, at present, to spend MPLADS funds outside the State of their election. The Committee also felt that matter might be first considered by the Committee on MPLADS (Rajya Sabha).

10. The Committee considered the proposal regarding utilisation of MPLADS funds for construction of Hall or Auditorium, Library Building for Bar Association. The Committee persued the position in this regard that the Guidelines do not permit construction of office buildings, residential buildings and other buildings relating to Central and State Governments Departments, agencies and organisations. Therefore, the construction of hall or auditorium for Bar Association, if these form part of a court, would be covered by this restriction contained of item 1 Appendix-2 of the Guidelines. If the halls for Bar Associations are to be constructed for trusts, societies or private institutions, they are prohibited as per item 2 Appendix-2 of the Guidelines. Moreover, if these halls are to be used by a particular group and are not available for use by public in general, the same might not be undertaken.

The Committee while not accepting the aforesaid views of the Ministry in this regard recommended, *inter alia*, that an amendment might be made by adding Item No. 26 (i) in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS to read as follows:—

"26(i) Construction of Halls/Auditorium/Library Building for Bar Association."

(vi) Memorandum No. 16 regarding **"Utilisation of unspent balance of Rajya Sabha Ex-MPs to the successor Rajya Sabha MPs under MPLADS."**

11. The Committee deliberated over the proposal and expressed their view that Committee on MPLADS (Rajya Sabha) might first make their recommendation on this subject before this Committee might examine the matter.

12. The Committee thereafter considered the suggestion from Chairman, Committee on MPLADS for making provision in the Guidelines on MPLADS for Construction of Building of Lion's Club/Rotary Clubs subject to a ceiling of Rs. 5 Lakh. The Committee agreed to it and it was decided that the ceiling should be raised to Rs. 10 lakh instead of Rs. 5

lakh by making an amendment by adding Item No. 26(ii) in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS to read as follows:—

"26(ii) Construction of Building of Lion's Club/Rotary Club subject to a ceiling of Rs. 10 lakhs."

13. The Committee also deliberated over the matter for providing a vehicle to MP for inspection of works executed under MPLADS. The Committee decided that the concerned District Collector/District Magistrate should provide a vehicle to the MP for inspection of works executed under MPLAD Scheme in his Parliamentary constituency.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX III

MINUTES OF NINTH SITTING OF COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LOK SABHA)

The Committee sat on Wednesday, 16 August, 2000 from 1600 to 1750 hours.

PRESENT

Dr. Bolla Bulli Ramaiah — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Dr. Baliram
3. Shri Saiduzzama
4. Shri Chandrakant Khaire
5. Shri Krishnamraju
6. Shri C. Kuppusami
7. Shri Sis Ram Ola
8. Shri Shriniwas Patil
9. Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan
10. Kunwar Akhilesh Singh
11. Shri Chinamayanand Swami

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri K.L. Narang — *Director*
2. Shri S.C. Kaliraman — *Assistant Director*

2. At the outset the Chairman apprised the Members of the Committee regarding schedule of the next meeting and study tour to Khajuraho on 12 September, 2000. Some Members expressed preoccupation with Ganesh Chaturthi Festival etc. and expressing that the date would not be suitable. Chairman informed the Committee that since the date has been fixed after consultation with Honourable Speaker of Lok Sabha and Honourable Chief Minister of the host State of Madhya Pradesh and the schedule was fixed taking into account mutual convenience of the same. Chairman expressed the view that he would consult Honourable Speaker and Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh conveying the feelings of the Members and seek a rescheduling subject to their availability.

3. The Committee then considered the Draft Report—'Proposals to amend Guidelines on MPLADS' and adopted the same with the following modifications:—

Para No.	Remarks
Para 1.6	Delete: "and disagree with the recommendation of the Committee on MPLAD Scheme in Rajya Sabha which had rejected the proposal."
Para 5.5 (Last Line)	For "Maharashtra" substitute "all States including Maharashtra"

The Committee authorised the Chairman to finalise the Report and also to make verbal and consequential changes, if any, arising out of factual verification by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and present the same to Lok Sabha.

4. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration Memorandum Nos. 17 and 18 relating to amendment in Guidelines on MPLADS. The decisions/recommendations are given Memorandum-wise seriatim:

(i) Memorandum No. 17 regarding **"Involvement of MPs in the distribution of MPLADS cheques to the beneficiaries under the MPLAD Scheme."**

The Committee deliberated over the proposal regarding involvement of MPs in the distribution of MPLADS cheques to the beneficiaries under the MPLAD Scheme.

Members were of the opinion that the concerned District Collector/ Magistrate should write to the MP informing him about the time of inauguration of the completed projects under MPLADS so that he could be present on the occasion. The Committee decided that the concerned MP if he so desires might be asked to distribute the cheques to the beneficiary/implementing agency under the MPLADS.

(ii) Memorandum No. 18 regarding **"Suggestion for inclusion of MPLADS in the curricula of training programmes for IAS Probationers/Officers for effective implementation of MPLADS."**

The Committee considered the suggestion from Chairman, Committee on MPLADS for inclusion of MPLADS in the curricula of training programmes for IAS Probationers/Officers for effective implementation of MPLADS. The Committee agreed on it and it was decided that to enable effective implementation of MPLAD Scheme, there was a need to have emphasis on the Scheme in the regular training programmes, being

conducted for IAS Officers from time to time. The Committee felt that it was imperative that the following action plan should be recommended to the Government, in this regard:

"(i) Firstly in the induction training of IAS Probationers at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, the curricula should *inter alia* include a comprehensive focus on MPLAD Scheme. This will enable the probationers who are to man the District in later part of their career, a sound orientation on the Scheme.

(ii) Management Development Programmes should also cover *inter alia* the MPLAD Scheme to enable in service IAS Officers to get updated on the operation of the Scheme from time to time.

(iii) Besides, special programmes on execution of MPLAD scheme should be designed for IAS Officers up to Senior Administrative Grade level and it should be compulsory for in service officers to be nominated in these courses once in three years. A record of such trainings attended should be kept in their service records."

5. The Committee also decided that the recommendations emerged from the aforesaid Memoranda should be incorporated in the Draft Report adopted by them.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX IV

STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl. No.	Para No.	Ministry	Observations/Recommendations
1	2	3	4
1	1.6	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	The Committee persue the proposal for providing a vehicle to MP for inspection of works executed under MPLAD Scheme. The Committee feel that vehicle was not to be purchased every year and it would be a one time affair. The Committee further note that five to seven per cent of interest accrued on MPLADS funds should be earmarked for purchase of vehicle so that Members could periodically inspect works. In the opinion of the Committee such step would have a tremendous effects on delivering goods to the public. The Committee also express their views that the vehicle be kept with the District Collector who should be the custodian and provide it to MP on request and it would be meant for MP only. This vehicle could also be used for monitoring development works in the constituency. The Committee also desire that there should be a ceiling on maintenance expenditure of the vehicle.
2.	1.7	-do-	During the course of evidence with the representatives of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on 26 July, 2000 the Committee deliberated over the matter for providing a vehicle to MP for inspection of works executed under MPLADS. The Committee recommended that the concerned District Collector/ magistrate should provide a vehicle to the MP for inspection of works executed under MPLADS in his parliamentary constituency.

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3.	2.5	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	The Committee note the proposal of the Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas for use of MPLADS Funds for providing LPG cylinder and regulator to women below poverty line. The Committee while not approving the proposal of the Hon'ble Minister agree with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the proposal for contributing Rs. 1000/- for each gas connection from MPLADS Funds cannot be accepted as it was prohibited under item 4 Appendix 2 of the Guidelines. The Committee note that the proposal of hon'ble Minister not being in conformity with the objectives of MPLAD Scheme. Hence, the MPLADS Funds may not be used for individual benefits.
4.	3.4	-do-	The Committee note the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their comments on the various suggestions. In regard to purchase of artificial limbs and cycles for distribution to disabled persons under MPLADS. The Committee recommend that provisions should be made to provide artificial limbs and cycles for disabled persons under MPLADS to a fixed number of needy persons in a year in the presence of State Government officials.
5.	3.5	-do-	In regard to clause 6.1 of the Guidlines on MPLADS, the Committee recommend that it may be amended to read as follow: ".....with the name of MP shall permanently and prominently be erected at the sites."
6.	3.6	-do-	The Committee on consideration of the proposal of Hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS regarding contribution of Rs. 5 lakh out of MPLADS Funds for *Internet Dhabas* in all Block/Mandal Headquarters in

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			the country recommend that funds should be provided for this purpose as it fell under the infrastructure category.
7.	4.4	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	The Committee note the suggestion. While agreeing with the reply of the Ministry in this regard the Committee recommended that as per criteria approved for release of funds, expenditure statement showing unsanctioned balance less than Rs. 1.00 crore (recently raised from Rs. 50.00 lakh to Rs. 1.00 crore) might be required.
8.	4.5	-do-	On consideration of proposal to amend Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme in this regard, the Committee recommend that cluase 3.2 of the Guidelines of MPLADS might be amended to read as follows: "As far as possible, all sanctions of works should be accorded within 30 days from the date of receipt of proposal from the concerned MP."
9.	4.6	-do-	The Committee while taking note of the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard recommend that any specific case of abnormal delay in transfer of funds from Nodal District to other districts should be enquired into, if brought to the notice of the Ministry.
10.	4.7	-do-	The Committee note the proposal and recommend the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the works upto Rs. one lakh can be executed departmentally by State Government Agencies to avoid any delay as provided in para 3.5 of the Guidelines on MPLADS. Tendering for works less than Rs. one lakh should be avoided as far as possible. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (Department of Programme Implementation) in their subsequent communication dated 28th July, 2000

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			addressed to all District Collectors/District Magistrates/Dy. Commissioners have stated as follows.
11.	4.9	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	The Committee note the above suggestions. The Committee further note that as per latest existing instructions, the MPLADS funds are required to be kept in the nationalised banks only, by opening separate account in respect of each MP. There has been requests from MPs that they should be provided photocopies of the passbooks for knowing the pace of utilisation of funds and the balance available in their accounts. The matter has been considered by Government and it has been decided that photocopies of updated passbooks would be made available to the concerned MPs by 10th of every alternate month. The Committee also feel that there is no harm in agreeing to the suggestion that depositing the funds in Nationalised Banks should be made in consultation with the concerned MP'. The Committee desire that the existing instructions should be reiterated to all DCs for compliance by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
12.	4.10	-do-	The Committee note the proposal for enhancing allocation in MP quota fund. The Committee on consideration of the position stated by the Ministry that "MOS (S&PI) has already announced in Lok Sabha on 10 May, 2000 that allocation of MPLADS funds cannot be enhanced from Rs. 2.00 crore", recommend that the allocation of MPLADS funds should be enhanced to Rs. 3.00 crore per Member to meet the requirement of developmental works in their constituencies.
13.	4.11	-do-	The Committee note the proposal and approve the position stated by the Ministry in this regard that the MPLADS funds can be allowed for construction of Community Halls

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			and Community Mandapams. Construction of buildings for Mahila Mandals can also be taken up.
14.	4.12	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implement-ation	The Committee note the proposal and while agreeing with the views of the Ministry in this regard that the Guidelines already specifically prohibit construction of Office Buildings, Residential Buildings and other buildings relating to Central or State Governments Departments, Agencies or Organisations, however, recommend that the Panchayat offices should not be covered by this restriction.
15	5.5	-do-	The Committee note the proposal of the hon'ble Member and agree with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the basic objective of the MPLAD Scheme was to take up works which were developmental in nature and lead to creation of durable assets for use by the general public. Any work relating to private enterprise or creation of asset for individual benefit has been specifically prohibited. That is why commercial organisations, trusts, registered socities, private institutions or cooperative institutions have been put in Apendix-2, Sl. No. 2 and have been covered under the prohibited category. The type of beneficiaries indicated by the Hon'ble MP were registered societies not covered under MPLADS as the benefit would accrue to a group of persons only and not the general public, which would be against the main objective of the scheme. The Committee desire, that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation as assured during evidence should take up the matter with the State Government of Maharashtra for relaxation of certain restrictions imposed in this regard to obviate difficulties of small/marginal farmers in all States including Maharashtra.

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16.	6.5	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	The Committee note the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their comments that the request to allow E-Governance and development of related software under MPLADS would basically require allowing implementating of computer scheme in Government offices which was not allowed at present. The computer scheme was allowed under MPLADS for Government aided educational institutions only, for the benefit of student community. As regards maintenance of accounts and issue of pass books, the Committee note that the accounts for MPLADS were being maintained by the District Heads as per the established procedures of the concerned State Governments. The Collectors are to open separate books of account in the nationalised bank in respect of each MP for which photocopies of updated passbooks would be made available to concerned MP by 10th of every alternate month.
17.	7.4	-do-	The Committee note the proposal and position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their comments that under the MPLAD Scheme, works of capital nature leading to creation of durable assets for public use can be taken up. Again Guidelines on MPLADS lay down specific restrictions on construction of office buildings.
18.	8.5	-do-	The Committee note the proposal of hon'ble Member regarding use of MPLADS funds for purchase of storage refrigerator for Blood Banks. They, while taking note of the position stated by the Ministry that purchase of refrigerator cannot be allowed under MPLADS as the same was classifiable under inventory item, however,

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			are of the view that relaxation might be made for allowing purchase of storage refrigerator for blood banks as the blood preserved in such refrigerator can save lives. The Committee, therefore, recommend that item No. 23 of the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS might be amended to read as follows: "Procurement of hospital equipment like X-Ray machines, ambulances and storage refrigerator for Blood Banks for Government Hospitals and setting up of mobile dispensaries in rural areas by Government Panchayati Institutions. Ambulance can be provided to reputed service organisations like Red Cross, Ramakrishna Mission etc."
19.	9.5	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	The Committee note the proposal for allowing Rajya Sabha MPs to take up works under MPLADS outside the State of their election and agree with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that as per para 1.2 of the Guidelines on MPLADS, Rajya Sabha MPs can select works in one or more districts from the State from where they have been elected. Thus, the Rajya Sabha MPs are not allowed, at present to spend MPLADS funds outside the State of their election. The Committee also feel that let the matter might be first considered by the Committee on MPLADS (Rajya Sabha) as it *prima facie* comes under their domain.
20.	9.6	-do-	The Committee note the proposal regarding utilisation of MPLADS funds for construction of Hall or Auditorium. Library Building for Bar Association. The Committee peruse the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the Guidelines do not permit construction of office buildings, residential buildings and other buildings relating to Central and State Governments Departments, agencies and organisations. Therefore, the construction

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			of hall or auditorium for Bar-Association, if these form part of a court, would be covered by this restriction contained in item-1 Appendix-2 of the Guidelines. If the halls for Bar Associations are to be constructed for trusts, societies or private institutions, they are prohibited as per item-2 Appendix-2 of the Guidelines. Moreover, if these halls are to be used by a particular group and are not available for use by public in general, the same might not be undertaken. The Committee while not accepting the aforesaid views of the Ministry in this regard recommend *inter-alia* that an amendment might be made by adding Item No. 26(i) in the Illustrative List of Works Appendix-I that can be taken up under MPLADS to read as follows:— "26(i) Construction of Halls/Auditorium/ Library Building for Bar Association."
21.	9.7	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	In this context, the Committee also note the proposal of hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS for making provision in the Guidelines on MPLADS. The Committee approve the proposal and recommend that the ceiling should for construction of building of Lion's Club/Rotary Clubs subject to a ceiling of Rs. 5 be raised to Rs. 10 lakh by making an amendment by adding Item No. 26(ii) in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS appendix-I to read as follows:— "26(ii) Construction of Lion's Club/Rotary Clubs subject to a ceiling of Rs. 10 lakh."
22.	10.3	-do-	The Committee note the proposal of hon'ble Member (Rajya Sabha) regarding utilisation of unspent balance of Rajya Sabha Ex-MPs to the successor Rajya Sabha MPs under MPLADS. The Committee feel that as

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			the matter more pertinently relate to Rajya Sabha MPs, therefore, the Committee on MPLADS (Rajya Sabha) might first make their recommendation on this subject before this Committee examine the matter.
23.	11.2	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	The Committee peruse Para 2.1 of the Guidelines on MPLADS relating to the aspect of identification of an Agency through which a particular work was to be executed under MPLADS. The Committee are of the opinion that Para 2.1 of the Guidelines on MPLADS was not clear as to who was the final authority—Member of Parliament or District Collector—to decided about the agency through which a particular work was to be executed under MPLADS. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation should make it clear and issue necessary instructions in this regard without any delay. The Committee feel that Member being representatives of the Public should have the discretion in the identification of agency through which a particular work was to be executed under MPLADS afterall his discretion was limited only to a Government Agency of the State Government.
24.	12.4	-do-	The Committee note the proposal regarding involvement of MPs in the distribution of MPLADS cheques to the beneficiaries under the MPLAD Scheme. In the opinion of the Committee, the concerned District Collector/Magistrate should write to the MP informing him about the time of inauguration of the completed projects under MPLADS so that he could be present at the occasion. The Committee recommend that the concerned MP, if he so desires, might be asked to distribute the cheques to the beneficiary/implementing agency under the MPLADS.

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25.	13.3	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	The Committee peruse the suggestion of Hon'ble Chairman. The Committee on MPLADS for inclusion of MPLADS in the curricula of training programmes for IAS Probationers/Officers for effective implementation of MPLADS. The Committee while approving the suggestion recommend that to enable effective implementation of MPLADs Scheme, there was a need to have emphasis on the Scheme in the regular training programmes, being conducted for IAS Officers from time-to-time. The Committee also desire that the following action plan should be recommended to the Government, in this regard:— "(i) Firstly in the induction training of IAS Probationers at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, the curricula should *inter alia* include a comprehensive focus on MPLAD Scheme. This will enable the probationers who are to man the District in later part of their career, a sound orientation on the Scheme. (ii) Management Development Programmes should also cover *inter alia* the MPLAD Scheme to enable in service IAS Officers to get updated on the operation of the Scheme from time-to-time. (iii) Besides, special programmes on execution of MPLAD Scheme should be designed for IAS Officers up to Senior Administrative Grade level and it should be compulsory for in service officers to be nominated in these courses once in three years. A record of such training attended should be kept in his service records."